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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/287,478	04/06/1999	CHRISTIAN STIG RODE	RCI001V1	6350

7590 03/28/2003
RODE CONSULTING INC
2412 STEARNS HILL ROAD
WALTHAM, MA 02451

EXAMINER

PHAN, THAI Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2123

DATE MAILED: 03/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/287,478

Applicant(s)
Christian Rode

Examiner
Thai Phan

Art Unit
2123



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan. 09, 2003
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is responsive to applicant's amendment filed on Jan. 09, 2003 for the patent application S/N: 09/287,478. Claims 11-13 are newly added. Claims 1-13 are pending in this Office Action.

Specification

1. Acknowledgment has been made for the submission of materials related to content of specification on page 2 of the present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Regarding claim 11, the phrase "etc." at the end of the claim renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear for how many unknown things applicant want to claim and refer to.

Regarding to claim 12, the phrase "other re-qualification for access" is unclear because for what "re-qualification" herein would refer to. The phrase "simulation/evaluation" is an unclear expression because what extent would the expression refer to. Does it refer together or separate processes?

Regarding to claim 13, the phrases "marketing/sales" and "local/remote" are unclear expressions for what it would refer to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Huben et al., patent no. 5,950,201, (201) herein, in view of Van Huben et al., patent no. 5,966,707.

As per claim 1, Van Huben (201) discloses method and system for computerized design automization using inter-networking (e.g. World Wide Web) for transmitting design or simulation data very similar to the claimed invention (Abstract, "Summary of the Invention"). According to Van Huben, the design simulation and verification method includes steps of creating a transmission network including clients, servers, etc., wherein network clients carrying unique identifier such as addressing, account number, etc. (Col. 18, lines 20-25, col. 23, lines 17-49, as example), transmitting structure design data, accepting data from at least one client (col. 9, line 41 to col. 10, line 20), merging form data with other data including template data for concurrent processing, processing merged data for output, simulating functional design with merged data using user interactive window program, and transmitting design simulation data to client as claimed (col. 6, lines 54-67, col. 9, line 53 to col. 11, line 55, col. 16, line 33 to col. 18, line 64, col. 20, line 27 to col. 22, line 65, cols. 33, 44-45, 51, 85-88). Van-Huben does not

expressly disclose web browser as claimed. Web browser in a computer network for browsing data for use in circuit simulation is well-known in the art. Van Huben (5,966,707) teaches method and system for simulating a circuit design over a computer network which uses web servers, clients and web browser in the user interface to browser (e.g., Cookies embedded in browser) desire data for circuit design (col. 10, lines 32-43, claim 5) to maintain and customize user's design environment or methodology (col. 10, lines 32-43)

This would motivate practitioner in the art to combine Van Huben (5,966,707) teaching of using web browser with current update technology and customized user's design environment in the design and simulation of circuit design over a computer network as disclosed for instance in Van Huben to take advantages of design data changes, maintaining cost, latest data update, etc. over available network resources as in the Summary of the invention.

As per claim 2, Van Huben also required some of steps in claim 1 being repeated for design changes or for a new design.

As per claim 3, Van Huben disclosed various user interface implemented in different operating system, wherein such implemented user interface would also include web browsers (Van Huben, patent 5,966,707).

As per claims 4-6, Van Huben (5,966,707) taught user unique identifier to identify user application file (col. 12, lines 28-67). The user unique identification is generated from a server for user to gain access to the network. Van Huben (5,950,201) also discloses checksum verification to validate user authorization or authority level access (cols. 23 and 24). User's

identifier is randomly generated with high fidelity or with high reliable probability due to special code generation for checking as claimed.

As per claim 7, Van Huben discloses such claimed limitations as in design database (cols. 23-24). Van Huben (5,966,707) also teaches method for managing and distributing resource in a computer web for circuit design and simulation with feature limitations as claimed. Van Huben also teaches circuit simulation resources for management include simulation databases for storing users' simulation files, user's simulation records or files (cols. 3-4) usually stored with record identification for accessing and retrieving simulation records to update current simulation, records associated with executable design database which would typically include unique identification (cols. 12-13) for database set, design record (database) update to current for later use, etc. as claimed (cols. 12-13).

As per claim 8, Van Huben (201) discloses process prioritized for scheduling and distributing resources for performing CAD server design tools in multiprocessing environment (col. 5, lines 12-21, lines 58-64, col. 6, lines 5-26).

As per claim 9, Van Huben (201) discloses transmitting design data to clients which would include form structure data, accepting the structure data, simulating the design data, and synthesizing the design according to design data flow.

As per claim 10, due to the similarities of claim 10 to claim 1 as well disclosed in Van Huben; therefore, claim 10 is also rejected under the same rationale as set forth.

As per claim 11, Van Huben (201) discloses privilege mode for user in simulation network.

As per claim 12, Van Huben (5,966,707) teaches use client in a network of workstations and web browser. Each user client station carries a unique identification may be saved in client's browser (col. 10, lines 32-43) in order to identify user workstation for tracking, security, and other purposes to improve network quality. Van Huben teaches user web browser to access, retrieve, and perform user's work such simulation of circuit, verification of user design, etc. over a distributed CAD design system over a computer network (col. 10).

As per claim 13, Van Huben (5,966,707) teaches user form data together with user unique identification number are logged for circuit simulation or debugging purpose (col. 12, lines 28-67). Van Huben also teaches local or remote databases (Fig. 1), and mechanisms to get file in different data formats such as graphical, textual files, parameter files in computer file through user interface web browser which inherently includes HTTP, for example, in order to initiate simulation, billing tasks, etc. over a computer network (Figs. 3-7).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In response to applicant's request for constructive assistance, the examiner would like the applicant to pay attention to the specification disclosure as in pages 8 and 9 for generating Form Structure Data.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thai Phan whose telephone number is (703) 305-3812.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 746-7239, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 746-7240 (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

March 24, 2003

Thai Phan
Patent Examiner
AU2123